**Mark Twain** (30.11.1835 - 21.04.1910) - American author.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain) was born on 30 November 1835 in Florida. His parents were John and Jane Clemens. After moving to Missouri John met Jane and some years later they married. There were seven children in their family but only four survived: Samuel, Henry, Orion and Pamela. Samuel was the sixth child.

At the age of 4 his family moved to Hannibal, Missouri. This town impressed him and it was later described in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Missouri was known as a slave state and this theme became apparent in his writings.

Mark Twain’s father was a judge. In 1847 he died when Samuel was eleven. In 1848 Samuel became an assistant of a printer. In three years he started working as a typesetter. His brother, Orion, owned a magazine and Mark worked on different articles for its content. At the age of eighteen Mark Twain left the town and began to work as a printer. He worked in different cities of the USA.

While a voyage to New Orleans Mark Twain met Horace E. Bixby who was a steamboat pilot. He later inspired a young author to be a pilot too. Afterwards Mark Twain persuaded his brother Henry to work together. In 1858 Henry died when the steamboat exploded. It is known that Mark Twain foresaw this accident in his a dream. After this he was interested in parapsychology. In 1859 Mark Twain got a steamboat pilot license. Samuel worked as a pilot until 1861.

Mark Twain had a wife Olivia Langdon. They married in 1870 though she refused his first marriage proposal. They lived in Buffalo, New York. He started working as a writer and editor in the newspaper. The married couple had 3 daughters: Jean, Clara and Susy. His son died of diphtheria. In 1904 Olivia died. They lived together for 34 years.

Mark Twain spent a lot of time in Hartford and at Quarry Farm where he wrote his famous writings including The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Prince and the Pauper, Life on the Mississippi, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn etc. In 1880 Mark Twain wrote A Tramp Abroad where he described his tour of Europe. While a tour he was in London and Heidelberg.

Mark Twain became a famous American author and orator. A lot of critics and peers appreciated his wit. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn made him noted. Mark Twain used different pen names that’s why some of his works are not known.

There was a period when Mark Twain felt low. In 1896 his daughter Susy died of meningitis. In 1904 his wife died and in 1909 Jean died. He also had a close friend, Henry Rogers, who died in 1909 too.

Mark Twain was born during a visit by Halley's Comet, and he predicted that he would "go out with it”. This prophecy was exact. Mark Twain died of a heart attack in 1910. He was interred in Woodlawn Cemetery.